

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /033 W

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R 171103Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8191

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3510

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, UR

SUBJ: TRAVEL OF BOLSHOI THEATRE TO USA

1. I WAS CALLED IN TO FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS MORNING BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ZEMSKOV. PRESENT ALSO WAS KORNIENKO, HEAD OF USA DIVISION, ON FIRST DAY BACK IN OFFICE AFTER THREE AND HALF WEEK ABSENCE BECAUSE OF ILLNESS. BREMENT ACCOMPANIED ME.

2. ZEMSKOV SAID THAT, AS WE KNEW, THE BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET WOULD BE GOING ON TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES IN APRIL. U.S. AUTHORITIES, HE SAID, ARE AWARE OF THE UNPLEASANTNESS WHICH OCCURRED THE LAST TIME BOLSHOI BALLET WAS IN THE U.S. WE REGARD THIS AS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER, ZEMSKOV CONTINUED, AND WISH TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER U.S. AUTHORITIES WOULD TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT NO PROVOCATIONS OR ACTIONS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AGAINST THE BOLSHOI TROUPE. HE SAID IF SUCH ACTIONS ARE REPEATED, IT WOULD BE BOUND TO AFFECT FUTURE CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

3. I REPLIED THAT I COULD ASSURE THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT THAT ALL NECESSARY MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF THE BOLSHOI BALLET AND OPERA. WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST, I SAID, TO SEE THAT THERE ARE NO UNPLEASANT INCIDENTS DURING ITS TOUR OF THE U.S. IN THIS REGARD, I POINTED OUT THAT THIS SUBJECT HAS ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON. WE ARE VERY PLEASED THAT THE BOLSHOI IS COMING, I CONTINUED. WE REALIZE THAT THIS IS A VERY BIG UNDERTAKING AND OF COURSE

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WE HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR THE BOLSHOI AND KNOW HOW MUCH IT

MEANS TO THE USSR. ON OUR SIDE WE WANT ONLY THAT THE TOUR BE SUCCESSFUL AND HAVE GOOD RESULTS FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. AFTER ASSURING ZEMSKOV THAT WE WOULD REPORT WHAT HE HAD SAID AND WOULD UNDERLINE THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE USSR REGARDS THIS MATTER, I CAUTIONED HIM THAT CONDITIONS IN THE U.S. ARE SUCH THAT WE CANNOT COMPLETELY PREVENT INCIDENTS--PERHAPS DEMONSTRATIONS. BUT WE WILL CERTAINLY TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THERE WILL BE NO INTERFERENCE DURING PERFORMANCES, I SAID.

4. ZEMSKOV THANKED ME FOR MY REMARKS. NO OTHER SUBJECTS WERE RAISED BY SOVIETS. CONVERSATION WAS CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT. BELIEVE ZEMSKOV HANDLED THIS MATTER, WHICH IS NOT IN HIS USUAL BAILIWICK, BECAUSE KUZNETSOV IS ON LEAVE.

5. ACTION OF SOVIETS IN RAISING MATTER AT THIS LEVEL SERVES PUT ON RECORD AND TO UNDERSCORE ONCE AGAIN SERIOUS VIEW THEY TAKE OF SECURITY OF BOLSHOI BALLET AND OPERA DURING U.S. TOUR.  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRAVEL OF BOLSHOI THEATRE TO USA  
**TAGS:** OTRA, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006